

IMMEDIATE.

McCARTNEY & LOYALIST PARTIES

Ulster Unionists are relieved that Bob McCartney has retracted his carping demand that the UDP and PUP should be summarily expelled from the political talks process.

One cannot doubt that this retreat has more to do with a forthcoming general election than with any deeply-held sense of obligation to encourage Messers Irvine and McMichael to continue their efforts to maintain the Loyalist cease-fire. There has been little public sympathy with the petulant attitude of the Member for North Down.

It is unlikely to be a mere coincidence that Mr McCartney now observes, "It is for Sir Patrick to address the issue and advise the delegates if any party does not comply with the criteria detailed in the Entry to Negotiations Act. He has the information at his fingertips".

On 9 January, Ulster Unionists wrote to Sir Patrick, "Since you are the final judge and arbiter in respect of security matters, Ulster Unionists feel that it should be your responsibility to bring forward, at the earliest opportunity, a report on **the state of the paramilitaries**. This will enable us to compare and contrast, from an informed position, the activities of IRA/Sinn Fein and the state of the CLMC cease-fire. To leave the initiative to others would be unhelpful".

Ken Maginnis, MP.

26 January, 1997